

many. Today we mourn the passing of Steve Walsh, but we also rejoice that he resides with his Creator now.

May his spirit live on throughout our work in Congress and in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to the importance of passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Every American should have equal access to the ballot box. Our democracy is stronger when everyone can participate. This should not be controversial or politicized, it is about ensuring a very basic right of every American.

Sadly, in my home State of Texas, the GOP has been trying again and again and again to strip our right to vote. After three attempts to pass a dangerous anti-voting bill, the Texas GOP has made it absolutely clear that they do not really want communities of color, seniors, and Latinos to vote.

The original Voting Rights Act was designed to stop this very kind of behavior. Voter suppression was wrong then and it is wrong now.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4 so that we can strengthen our democracy and build on the Voting Rights Act. This bill will ensure that everyone has an equal right to vote.

RECOGNIZING MARTY REISER

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Marty Reiser, a man of immense character and integrity who selflessly served the American people for over 20 years.

After graduating from the College of the Holy Cross, Marty started at the Department of Commerce as an appointee under President Ronald Reagan.

In the 1990s, Marty came to the House of Representatives, where he worked for Congressman Dan Miller in a variety of roles, ultimately finishing up as his chief of staff. After leaving Capitol Hill, he went on to a think tank and taught high school before managing Xerox's governmental affairs team.

In 2011, Marty came back to the House, joining the Ways and Means Committee's Health Subcommittee, where he was instrumental in crafting legislation that would provide quality healthcare for millions of Americans.

On August 18, 2014, Marty joined my team and has been a vital part of it ever since. With a servant's heart and

attention to detail, Marty is an expert not only on House procedure, but on all issues passing through the whip's office, and is relied upon in all other leadership offices as well.

Thank you, Marty, for your faithful service to the House of Representatives, and best of luck in your future. You will be missed.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I understand the importance of passing legislation that will make much-needed investment in our Nation's infrastructure. And as the representative of the Virgin Islands, a place where modern infrastructure resilience to climate change is needed, I am committed to making that happen.

President Biden's Build Back Better agenda is not just about fixing our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, it is also about strengthening the economy, creating jobs, helping Americans afford the rising cost of living. These critical investments will not be possible without passage of a budget resolution.

Passage of a budget resolution gives House Democrats the opportunity to make sure we are not just investing in infrastructure, but also reducing carbon emission, restoring transit funding, reconnecting neighborhoods, and ensuring climate-resilient and affordable investment in our crumbling wastewater infrastructure, all of which are needed in my home.

Ensuring a bicameral reconciliation process, with input from the people's House prior to the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, is essential to advancing critical American priorities on infrastructure and so much more. That is why I know Democrats will work together and take the first step to enact a budget resolution this week.

AFGHANISTAN DEBACLE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, first of all, to all those who served in Afghanistan, we thank you. God bless you. You did everything you were asked to do. You did your duty with honor. But like most Americans, I watched with disgust as the Taliban retook Kabul last Sunday.

Any shame of that operation lies here in D.C. with the suits, not with the boots, who allowed this to happen. Yet, what are we hearing? Rhetoric. White House communications director Jen Psaki says: Now, it is irresponsible for those to be talking about Americans that are stranded in Afghanistan.

We see the word "stranded" on the front page of the newspaper. We see the

word "hostage." We see the words—all sorts of things—showing what a debacle this has been, including "debacle" right on the front page. So what do we get from the White House? We are not getting transparency, as promised by the Biden administration, unless you want to define "transparency" as invisible, which they have been.

We have to do much better to get our people out of this country, and all that material that was left behind is now in the hands of our enemies.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, we were here until about 12:15 this morning trying to work out the votes for a rule to move America forward. I hope we have them. We will find out soon.

We are trying to get the Build Back Better bill passed, the resolution to provide the opportunity for us to have that bill come forward, and the infrastructure bill as well. They will provide for needed infrastructure for American companies, businesses, and families; child care tax credits to be made permanent; prescription drug costs to be reduced; water lines improved and corrected; wastewater, which was so inadequate in Tennessee, where we had dozens die from floods.

Hopefully, we will get this passed, it is important business. I thank Speaker PELOSI and Leader HOYER for their long hours and their work in trying to build back America better.

AMERICANS STRANDED IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, President Biden's failure to safely withdraw our troops from Afghanistan has resulted in American civilians being attacked in broad daylight on the streets of Kabul as they attempt to reach the airport.

As I speak today, Americans are being stranded behind enemy lines. Our top priority must be to bring them home safely. Now is not the time for taking vacations or giving canned remarks from the west wing.

Now is the time for American leadership, and President Biden has failed us in this regard. The evidence is clear, the fall of Afghanistan is Joe Biden's Saigon.

Today, my prayers are with the military that they have redeployed and are working to end this crisis. They are also with the American citizens who remain today stranded in Afghanistan.

□ 1215

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS DESTROYING THIS COUNTRY'S CREDIBILITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, President Biden has barely been in office for 8 months, and he has already done irreparable damage to the United States' standing within the international community, not to mention our national security.

Rather than enacting a calculated and comprehensive plan to protect and evacuate the remaining Americans stuck in Afghanistan, he continues to point fingers and push falsehoods that have been refuted by his own administration.

President Biden is destroying this great country's credibility on the world stage with this inept planning, failed executions, and inability to calibrate in this crisis.

After listening to administration top officials, it is clear that there was never a plan to evacuate Americans safely from Afghanistan. Any explanations of efforts that are underway are insufficient.

The arbitrary deadline to leave by August 31 is ridiculous. The evacuation will be complete only when every American has exited Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Tuesday, August 24, 2021:

H.R. 3642, to award a Congressional gold medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1315

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SEWELL) at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3684, INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 14, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MR. NEGUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117-117) on the resolution (H. Res. 601) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; and providing for the adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 14) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3684, INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 14, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 601 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 601

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respec-

tive designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The chair of the Committee on the Judiciary may insert in the Congressional Record not later than August 24, 2021, such material as he may deem explanatory of H.R. 4.

SEC. 3. (a) Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

(b) On the legislative day of September 27, 2021, the House shall consider in the House the motion referred to in subsection (a) if not offered prior to such legislative day. A motion considered pursuant to this subsection shall be considered as though offered pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 4. Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 5. Rule XXVIII shall not apply with respect to the adoption by the House of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 6. House Resolution 594 and House Resolution 600 are laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, earlier today, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 601, providing for consideration of three measures.

First, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4 under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designee. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman NADLER, provides one motion to recommit, and provides the Judiciary Committee with the authority to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD explanatory material related to H.R. 4 no later than August 24.